

Barr, G.S., and Coatesworth, A.P., "Passive Smoking and Otitis Media with Effusion," British Medical Journal 303: 1032-1033, 1991.

The authors performed a case-control study of 115 children aged 17 months to 11+ years who had otitis media with effusion confirmed by myringotomy and their matched healthy controls. The authors suggest that "exposure to cigarette smoke might induce instability of the mast cell walls and the onset of otitis media with effusion, but our data do not support this hypothesis." The authors state that cigarette smoking is more common in households of lower socioeconomic status but that "it is unlikely to be a risk factor for otitis media with effusion, although it may have an association."